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been obtained, full accounts of which will be published in the near future.

The museum during the year has furnished aid to many specialists who have been offered every facility within the power of the Curators, while the interest of the general public in the exhibits would appear to be greatly stimulated. This is largely due to the custom inaugurated during the past year, of placing new and attractive specimens in a prominent place on the main floor of the museum for some days before putting them in their final positions, as well as to many popular articles which have appeared in our daily papers.

Specimens have been loaned during the year to Mr. T. Wayland Vaughan, Dr. Wm. H. Dall, Austin C. Apgar, B. W. Evermann, Prof. Jas. Hall, Messrs. F. W. True, F. M. Chapman, C. W. Richmond, and Dr. Geo. Bauer.

The departments of botany and entomology have been under the care of the special conservators, Mr. John H. Redfield and Dr. Henry Skinner respectively, to whom the Curators are indebted for their valuable aid. Acknowledgment is also due to Mr. W. W. Jefferis, Curator of the Vaux Collections, and Messrs. Shultz, Boyer, and Woolman who have done valuable work in classifying and labeling the collection of diatoms.

The unusual progress thus recorded is largely owing to the earnestness and fidelity manifested by the assistants, Messrs. Witmer Stone and Samuel N. Rhoads, Mr. D. N. McCadden, taxidermist, and the Jessup Fund students, Messrs. J. E. Richardson, Howard Y. Pennell and Henry W. Fowler.

SAMUEL G. DIXON,  
*Curator-in-charge.*

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## REPORT OF BIOLOGICAL AND MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

During the year nine regular meetings of the Section have been held, at which communications were made and microscopic slides exhibited.

Among the communications of special interest were those of Dr. B. Sharp, on his expedition to Hawaii and on the fertilization of

plants; those of Dr. Geo. A. Rex, on bacteria in the Myxomycetes; of Mr. Amos P. Brown, on hairs on *Mentzelia*, and Mr. Boyer's description of a new form of diatom, named by him *Rhabdonema Woolmanii*.

At the joint meetings with the Academy the Section has always been represented by its members, and important communications have been made as follows: John A. Ryder, preparation of nervous tissue, formation of brain convolutions; Geo. A. Rex, M. D., plasmodium of Myxomycetes, *Diachœa Thomasii*; Benjamin Sharp, Ph.D., curious growth on a tree-root from San Salvador, fertilization of plants in Hawaii; C. S. Boyer, on cyclosis; Lewis Woolman, remarks on diatoms; S. G. Dixon, M. D., protection from tuberculosis; D. S. Holman, remarks on Myxomycetes; S. Trenner, exhibition of centrifugal machine; M. V. Ball, M. D., remarks on tetanus and the antitoxin, crystals formed by bacteria, skulls of criminals.

The donations to the collection have been few: One slide of barking sand, by Dr. Rex, and ten slides of histologic subjects by Mr. Leedom Sharp.

Five new names have been added to the list of members and contributors. One death has been announced, and two members have resigned, leaving the number of members and contributors sixty-four.

The average attendance at the regular meetings was eight.

The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$239.39 in the treasury.

Dr. Geo. A. Rex, the Conservator of the Section, reports as follows:—

The property of the Section is in good condition. The microscopes and accessory apparatus are in working order and have been freely and frequently used at the stated meeting of the Section.

No addition has been made to the apparatus during the year. The slide collection is also in good order, but it is to be regretted that but few additions have been made since the last report.

Some inconvenience results from the crowded condition of our cabinet, especially in the space devoted to the large binoculars and the Leidy stands, but it is hoped that this will be remedied when space in the new building is available.

The following gentlemen were elected to fill the various offices for the ensuing year:—

<i>Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Benjamin Sharp, M. D.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	John C. Wilson.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Chas. P. Perot.
<i>Corresponding Secretary,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	John G. Rothermel.
<i>Conservator,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Geo. A. Rex, M. D.
<i>Recorder,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	M. V. Ball, M. D.

Respectfully submitted.

M. V. BALL,  
*Recorder.*

#### REPORT OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SECTION.

During the year 1894 specimens of mollusca have been received from 45 persons, and a large number of species new to the collection have been added to the museum, as well as a few new to science. As usual, a great many specimens illustrating geographic distribution and variation have increased the study series; and as the growth of this series, which is arranged in drawers under the exhibition cases, exceeds the growth of the exhibition series, we are again in urgent need of space for its proper disposal.

The principal accessions during the year have been several sendings from Dr. J. C. Cox of shells from Australia and Tasmania, a large series of marine shells of Japan which we have been allowed to select from the collection of Mr. Frederick Stearns, a series of Japanese land mollusks in alcohol, and a very valuable collection of shells from the Liukiu Is., also due to the liberality of Mr. Stearns. A considerable number of South Australian land shells and chitons we owe to Mr. W. T. Bednall. Finally, the Conservator, with the co-operation of Mr. C. W. Johnson, was enabled to collect very extensive series of the mollusks of the middle St. Johns River, Florida. Many thousand specimens were collected from numerous localities and the material amassed will prove of great importance in the study of the variable and ill-defined species of Floridian Unionidæ. An especial object of the journey was to procure certain peculiar local races of *Vivipara*; and a number of varieties new to science were found, including one of the most divergent forms of the genus yet